AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a pulley permanently attached to a non-portable structure;

a closed loop of cable installed around the pulley and being of sufficient length so as to reach, when deployed outside of the structure, below the pulley to an area next to a base of the structure; ~~and~~

a load attached to the loop;

a moveable pulley around which the loop is installed, the moveable pulley being located in the area next to the base and designed to be moved relative to the winch and said pulley to (i) increase tension in the loop as installed so that the load, suspended by the loop, moves away from a side of the structure and (ii) decrease tension in the loop as installed so that the suspended load moves towards the side of the structure; and

a breech loadable traction winch around which the loop is to be operatively installed to lift the attached load~~a load that is to be attached to the loop of cable~~, the traction winch being located in the area next to the base.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the structure is a building and the pulley is permanently attached to a structural support of ~~a~~ the building located near an edge of a roof of the building, and the cable is made of a plurality of flexible wires.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a load attached to the loop,~~ wherein the winch is designed to be moved one of horizontally and vertically relative to the pulley to move the load, suspended by the loop, towards and away from a side of the ~~building~~ structure.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a load attached to the loop; and~~

~~a moveable pulley around which the loop is installed, the moveable pulley being located in the area next to the base and designed to be moved relative to the winch and said pulley to (i) increase tension in the loop as installed so that the load, suspended by~~

~~the loop, moves away from a side of the building and (ii) decrease tension in the loop as installed so that the suspended load moves towards the side of the building, and~~ wherein the winch is anchored to a fire department vehicle.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a load attached to the loop,~~ wherein the winch is anchored to a vehicle and is designed to move relative to the vehicle and relative to said pulley to change tension in the loop as installed so as to move the load, suspended by the loop, towards and away from a side of the ~~building~~ structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 ~~further comprising:~~

~~a container attached to the loop,~~ wherein the winch is secured to a vehicle, and wherein the vehicle is to move horizontally in the area next to the base to adjust a horizontal distance between the ~~container~~ load, while suspended by the loop, and a side of the ~~building~~ structure.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising means for automatically deploying the loop from a resting state in the ~~building~~ structure.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~further comprising a container~~ wherein the load is attached to a near section of the loop,

wherein a far section of the loop, when the loop has been deployed and installed on the traction winch, is positioned farther from a side of the structure than the near section.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the traction winch ~~is a breech loadable, traction hoist that~~ uses power and braking to directly act upon the far section of the loop, wherein power is used to pull in the far section and thereby lift said container and braking is used to let out the far section to thereby lower said container.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 further comprising a container stabilizing mechanism that includes:

a guide cable attached to the ~~building~~ structure and running along the side of the ~~building~~ structure between the pulley and the base;

a first guide line that is under tension and connects the guide cable to the ~~container~~ load and can slide along the guide cable as the ~~container~~ load is one of raised and lowered; and

a second guide line that is under tension and connects the far section of the loop to the ~~container~~ load and can slide along the far section as the ~~container~~ load is one of raised and lowered.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 comprising a further ~~container~~ load attached to the far section of the loop and designed for carrying further equipment or personnel.

Claims 14-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing instructions to operate a system for reaching from outside an upper floor of a multi-story building, by

~~a)~~ installing a closed loop of cable onto a breech loadable traction winch that is located in an area next to a base of the building, the loop being further wrapped around a pulley that is permanently mounted to a roof of the building or somewhere on the building above the upper floor;

~~b)~~ attaching equipment to the loop at ~~an~~ the area next to ~~a~~ the base of the building; ~~and~~

installing the loop around a moveable pulley that is located in the area next to the base;

~~c)~~ activating the winch to raise the attached equipment until ~~it~~ the equipment has reached the upper floor and then deactivating the winch to leave the equipment suspended at approximately the upper floor; and

moving the moveable pulley relative to the traction winch and said pulley to (i) increase tension in the loop as installed to move the suspended equipment away from the upper floor of the building, and (ii) decrease tension in the loop to move the suspended equipment closer to the upper floor of the building.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the instructions provide that the equipment be one of a water hose, air hose, electric cable, pump, and tank used by a fire department for extinguishing fires.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the instructions provide that the equipment be an electrical cable used to conduct electrical power for operating machinery.

Claims 24-26 (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A system for reaching an upper level of a non-portable structure, comprising:

~~a closed loop of wire rope installed around a pulley, the pulley being located at a roof or somewhere above the upper level of the structure, the loop being at least long enough to reach an area next to a base of the structure when allowed to hang outside of the structure;~~

a portable, breech loadable traction winch to cooperate with a closed loop of wire rope installed around a pulley, the pulley being permanently located at a roof or somewhere above the upper level of the fixed structure, the loop being at least long enough to reach an area next to a base of the structure when allowed to hang outside of the structure, the traction winch being located in the area next to the base of the structure and into which the loop is to be installed; and

a moveable pulley around which the loop is to be installed, the moveable pulley being designed to be moved relative to the traction winch and said pulley to (i) increase tension in the loop as installed so that a load, when suspended by the loop, moves away from a side of the structure and (ii) decrease tension in the loop as installed so that the suspended load moves towards the side of the structure.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for raising firefighters and equipment to and evacuating people from an upper floor of a multistory building, the building having a roof, a base, and at least one upper floor, said system comprising:

~~a first pulley mounted on the roof or an upper level of the building;~~

a breech loadable bi-directional traction winch disposed at the base of the building to cooperate with a first pulley permanently mounted on the roof or an upper

floor of the building and a closed loop of cable connected around said first pulley and said traction winch;

~~a closed loop of cable connected around said pulley and said traction winch; and~~

a first container for holding at least one person connected to said loop of cable at the base of the building,

so that (1) when said traction winch is activated in a first direction, said first container travels to the upper floor of the building, and (2) when said traction winch is activated in an opposite second direction, said first container travels to the base of the building; and

a plurality of pulleys around which said loop is further connected, one or more of said plurality of pulleys being designed to be moveable under power and under control of an operator of the system, relative to the traction winch and the first pulley, to move the first container towards and away from a face of the building.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 28, further including:

a second container connected to said loop of cable, said second container disposed on an opposite side of said loop of cable from said first container, so that (1) when said winch is activated in said first direction, said second container travels to the base of the building, and (2) when said winch is activated in said opposite second direction, said second container travels to the upper floor of the building.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 28, further including:

means for moving said first pulley from a retracted position on the roof to an extended position wherein said first pulley hangs over an edge of the roof.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 28, further including:

means for storing said loop of cable on the roof of the building prior to said loop of cable being connected around said winch.

35. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 28, further including:

means for storing said loop of cable next to a face of the building prior to said loop of cable being connected around said winch.

36. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 28, wherein a plurality of selected positions along said loop are defined to which said first container is connectable.

Claims 37-45 (Canceled)